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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/897,279	07/02/2001	Wiland Von Wendorff	J&R-0680	2028

24131 7590 03/12/2007  
LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP  
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HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER
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KIM, KEVIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/897,279	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WENDORFF, WILAND VON	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kevin Y. Kim	<b>Art Unit</b> 2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,9-11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. The indicated allowability of claims 5,6,8 and 14 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to US Patent No. 6,594,273. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow. The finality of the previous action is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 5,6,9,10,11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by McGibney (US 6,594,273).

McGibney discloses a synchronous network (see Fig.5) comprising;

nodes transmitting data to another in a predefined sequence for a predefined duration (see Fig.2 showing times slots assigned to nodes), a plurality of said nodes outputting a synchronization signal (see Fig.2 showing SYNC SLOT) defining a reference time for the synchronization of the nodes,

a respective node outputs a sync signal (during a specific time slot or a global time slot as shown in Fig.2 showing SYNC SLOT) for the synchronization with other nodes.

McGibney does not specifically describe that the respective node outputs the sync signal after determining whether and when no other nodes are outputting a sync signal.

said respective node outputs further data in a time slot assigned thereto after outputting the sync signal or receiving a sync signal from other nodes (see Fig.2 showing times slots assigned to nodes).

McBiney teaches that each node listens to sync signals from other nodes at random intervals. This suggests that McBiney teaches the avoiding of collision between sync signals from other nodes and its own generation of a sync signal during the sync slot. A carrier sense multiple access with collision detection or CSMA/CD is well known and widely used in the art for a distributed network without a master node, such as used by McBiney. See col.2, line 46- col.3, line 10. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to require the nodes of the synchronous network of McBiney to generate a sync signal after determining whether and when no other nodes are outputting a sync signal in order to avoid a collision with another nodes similarly attempting to output sync signals.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 8, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Y. Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-3039. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM --5PM M-F.

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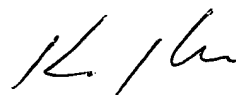
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

March 5, 2007

AU 2611

KEVIN KIM  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kim', is written below the printed name and title.